

Introduced by Senator Alquist

January 19, 2006

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 78—Relative to Greek Independence Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 78, as introduced, Alquist. Greek Independence Day.

This measure would designate March 25, 2006, as Greek Independence Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The ancient Greeks developed the concept of
2 democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was vested in
3 the people; and
4 WHEREAS, The ancient Greeks established the Olympic
5 Games, the largest display of athletic skill and competitive spirit
6 in the ancient world; and
7 WHEREAS, The Founding Fathers of the United States drew
8 heavily on the political experience and philosophy of ancient
9 Greece in forming our representative democracy; and
10 WHEREAS, The story of Greek military tactics used at the
11 Battle of Marathon in 490 B.C. is still mandatory reading at the
12 National War College in Washington, D.C.; and
13 WHEREAS, Greek soldiers were with the United States
14 Marines on the shores of Tripoli in the military operations
15 memorialized in the United States Marines' Hymn; and
16 WHEREAS, Many Americans fought alongside the Greeks in
17 their fight for Greek independence, while stirring speeches by
18 President James Monroe and Daniel Webster led the Congress to

1 send funds and supplies to aid the Greeks in the struggle for
2 freedom; and

3 WHEREAS, Greek Commander in Chief Petros
4 Mavromichalis, a founder of the modern Greek state, said to the
5 citizens of the United States in 1821, “it is in your land that
6 liberty has fixed her abode and ... in imitating you, we shall
7 imitate our ancestors and be thought worthy of them if we
8 succeed in resembling you”; and

9 WHEREAS, Greece is one of only three nations in the world,
10 beyond the former British Empire, that has been allied with the
11 United States in every major international conflict in the 20th
12 century, including World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam,
13 Desert Storm, and the Balkans; and

14 WHEREAS, Greece played a major role in the World War II
15 struggle to protect freedom and democracy through such bravery
16 as was shown in the historic Battle of Crete and in Greece,
17 presenting the Axis land war with its first major setback; and

18 WHEREAS, Sir Winston Churchill said of the Greeks after
19 this fighting, “Hence we will not say that Greeks fight like
20 heroes, but that heroes fight like Greeks”; and

21 WHEREAS, The author of a military history said, “The
22 campaign in Greece and in Crete forced Hitler to postpone the
23 invasion of Russia ... and to fight a winter campaign ... which
24 brought Hitler’s war machine to a standstill”; and

25 WHEREAS, The government of Greece has declared its
26 solidarity with the American people and has pledged to back
27 efforts to combat and eradicate terrorism in the aftermath of
28 terrorist attacks on the United States of America; and

29 WHEREAS, Greece has sent its troops to Afghanistan to
30 participate in an international peacekeeping force, the first Greek
31 soldiers in Afghanistan since the time of Alexander the Great in
32 the 4th century B.C.; and

33 WHEREAS, Greece and the United States of America are at
34 the forefront of the effort for freedom, democracy, peace,
35 stability, and human rights; and

36 WHEREAS, Those and other ideals have forged a close bond
37 between our two nations and their peoples; and

38 WHEREAS, March 25, 2006, marks the 185th anniversary of
39 the beginning of the revolution that freed the Greek people from
40 the Ottoman Empire; and

1 WHEREAS, It is proper and desirable to celebrate with the
2 Greek people and to reaffirm the democratic principles from
3 which our two great nations were born; now, therefore, be it

4 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
5 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby designates
6 March 25, 2006, as “Greek Independence Day: A Day of
7 Celebration of Greek and American Democracy”; and be it
8 further

9 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
10 this resolution to the author for distribution.

O